



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed collection, comment request

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c) (2) (A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section below on or before *(insert date 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register)*.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by fax to 202-691-5111 (this is not a toll free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See Addresses section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) is a nationally representative sample of persons who were born in the years 1980 to 1984. These respondents were ages 12-17 when the first round of annual interviews began in 1997; starting with round sixteen, the NLSY97 is conducted on a biennial basis. Round eighteen interviews will occur from September 2017 to May 2018. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) contracts with a vendor to conduct the NLSY97. The primary objective of the survey is to study the transition from schooling to the establishment of careers and families. The longitudinal focus of this survey requires information to be collected from the same individuals over many years in order to trace their education, training, work experience, fertility, income, and program participation.

One of the goals of the Department of Labor (DOL) is to produce and disseminate timely, accurate, and relevant information about the U.S. labor force. The BLS contributes to this goal by gathering information about the labor force and labor market and disseminating it to policymakers and the public so that participants in those markets can make more informed, and thus more efficient, choices. Research based on the NLSY97 contributes to the formation of national policy in the areas of education, training, work experience, fertility, income, and program participation. In addition to the reports that the BLS produces based on data from the NLSY97, members of the academic community publish articles and reports based on NLSY97 data for the DOL and other funding agencies. To date, approximately 497 articles examining NLSY97 data have been published in scholarly journals. The survey design provides data gathered from the same respondents over time to form the only dataset that contains this type of information for this important population group. Without the collection of these data, an accurate longitudinal dataset could not be provided to researchers and policymakers, thus adversely affecting the DOL's ability to perform its policy- and report-making activities.

II. Current Action

The BLS seeks approval to conduct round 18 of biennial interviews of the NLSY97. Respondents of the NLSY97 will undergo an interview of approximately 72 minutes during which

they will answer questions about schooling and labor market experiences, family relationships, and community background.

During the fielding period for the main round 18 interviews, about 2 percent of respondents will be asked to participate in a brief validation interview a few weeks after the initial interview. The purpose of the validation interview is to verify that the initial interview took place as the interviewer reported and to assess the data quality of selected questionnaire items.

For round 18, we propose to convert the NLSY97 to a predominantly telephone survey. We anticipate that approximately 75 percent of interviews will be completed by telephone.

The round 18 questionnaire will resemble the round 17 questionnaire with few modifications. New questions for the round 18 questionnaire include questions on job tasks. In addition, extensive minor edits have been made to adapt the round 18 instrument for predominantly telephone administration, including the removal of references to show cards, introductory statements, reduction of self-administered content, and shortening of code frames.

As in prior rounds of the NLSY97, round 18 will include a pretest conducted several months before the main fielding to test survey procedures and questions and resolve problems before the main fielding begins. Because of the transition to phone interviewing, the pretest for round 18 precedes main fielding by a longer period of time (an additional 2 months) to correct any problems encountered in the pretest.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997.

OMB Number: 1220-0157.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Form	Total Respondents	Frequency	Total Responses	Average Time per Response	Estimated Total Burden
NLSY97 Pretest April/May 2017	150	One-time	150	72 minutes	180 hours
Main NLSY97: September 2017-May 2018	6980	One-time	6980	72 minutes	8376 hours
Validation interview: October 2017 - June 2018	139	One-time	139	4 minutes	9 hours
<i>TOTALS*</i>	<i>7130</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7269</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>8565 hours</i>

* The difference between the total number of respondents and the total number of responses reflects the fact that about 6,980 are expected to complete the main interview. In addition, about 139 respondents will be interviewed twice, once in the main survey and a second time in the 4-minute validation interview.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 15th day of August 2016.

Kimberley D. Hill

Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor
Statistics

4510-24-P

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